

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method of archiving an item comprising:

presenting the item to a parser;

parsing the item into a plurality of multi-part object structures wherein portions of the structures have searchable information tags associated therewith;

evaluating the object structures in accordance with object structures previously stored in an archive;

presenting an evaluated object structure for manual reconciliation at least where there is a predetermined variance between the object and at least one of a predetermined standard and a user defined rule.

2. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 1 wherein the respective structure can be manually edited after being presented for reconciliation.

3. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 1 which includes, before the parsing step, converting an input item to a standardized format for input to the parser.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 1 which includes storing a reconciled object structure in the archive without substantial redundancy.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 4 which includes selectively editing an object structure, linked to other structures to thereby effect a one-to-many change in a plurality of archived items.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 5 which includes compiling an item to be output from the archive, wherein at least one object-type structure of the item has been edited during the one-to-many change and wherein the compiled item includes a plurality of linked object-type structures converted into a predetermined output file formal.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 6 which includes compiling a plurality of items wherein the at least one object-type structure had been linked in the archive to members of the plurality.

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 7 wherein the plurality of items comprises a plurality of color separations and including producing the color separations sequentially wherein at least some of the separations contain a common graphical symbol edited commonly in the archive by editing the respective common respective object structure.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 1 which includes forming object oriented data structures from the parsed items wherein the data structures include at least some of item properties, item property values, element properties and element property values.

10. (original) An object, oriented archival system comprising:

a storage medium, and a set of executable instructions for establishing an archive of documents represented by linked object oriented elements stored in the medium, wherein the archive exhibits minimal redundancy with at least some elements linked to pluralities of the elements and wherein some of the instructions, in response to a selected editing command, alter at least one element common to and linked to a selected plurality of other elements to thereby effect a one-to-many editing process and additional instructions for compiling an output file, in a selected format.

11. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 which includes instructions for producing a plurality of files corresponding to color separations for printing a multi-color item.

12. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 which includes instructions for storing object oriented elements incorporating property elements and associated values.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 12 which includes additional instructions for storing document properties and property values.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 13 wherein the executable instructions link selected property elements with selected document properties and values.

15. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 wherein archived object oriented elements comprise a data structure which incorporates document properties and associated values.

16. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 15 wherein document properties carry a linking tag.

17. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 wherein executable instructions compare incoming object oriented elements to archived elements to thereby minimize redundancy in the archive.

18. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 wherein a document can be represented by a plurality of linked object-type data structures which include document properties; document property values, element properties and element property values.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The system as in claim 10 wherein the output file comprises at least one of an input for a printer, an input for a printing press, and an input for an electronic network.

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 1 for generating layers corresponding to color separations for a printing process further comprising:

establishing the archive populated with a plurality of graphically oriented object-type structures wherein a first plurality of the structures represents a first layer, corresponding to a color separation for a multi-color output document, wherein the members of the first plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the first layer, and, at least a second plurality of the structures wherein the second plurality represents a second layer corresponding to a second color separation for the output document wherein the members of the second plurality are linked to establish element definitions and locations, relative to one another, in the second layer, and, wherein the establishing step includes, analyzing the members of the first and second pluralities for common structures, and storing a representation of only one structure in the event that multiple common structures are detected.

21. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 20 which includes converting at least one new document to a predetermined input format, and parsing the document to a third plurality of object oriented-type structures.

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 21 which includes evaluating the members of the third plurality in accordance with at least one of a predetermined rule and a predetermined standard.

23. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 22 which includes producing at least one of a report and a visual display of the results of the evaluating step.

24. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 23 which includes editing the visual display thereby altering at least one of the members of the third plurality.

25. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 21 which includes comparing the object structures to the pre-stored contents of a selected archive and adding only non-redundant object structures to the archive and establishing at least one added link to a pre-stored object structure in the event of a detected redundancy wherein the contents of the archive are substantially non-redundant.

26. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 21 which includes compiling at least one output document into a predetermined output formal from a plurality of archived object structures.

27. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 20 which includes editing a plurality of layers, substantially simultaneously, by altering a single object structure, common to all of the layers.

28. (currently amended) [[A]] The method as in claim 25 which includes editing a plurality of documents, substantially simultaneously, by altering a single object structure common to all of the documents.